

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1    1.    A method for automatically provisioning data in a distributed database system, the  
2        method comprising the steps:  
3        a database server causing a tablespace to be transported from a first file system to a  
4                second file system; and  
5        after transporting said tablespace to said second file system, said database server  
6                importing said tablespace into a local database managed by said database  
7                server.
- 1    2.    The method of claim 1, wherein the step of a database server causing a tablespace to  
2        be transported and the step of said database server importing said tablespace are both  
3        performed in response to invocation of a routine.
- 1    3.    The method of claim 1, wherein said routine is written in code that conforms to a  
2        database language and that may be executed by a database server.
- 1    4.    The method of claim 1, wherein the step of importing includes attaching said  
2        tablespace to said local database.
- 1    5.    The method of claim 1, wherein the tablespace is attached to another database before  
2        and during performance of the step of said database server causing a tablespace to be  
3        transported.
- 1    6.    The method of claim 1, wherein the tablespace is offline before and during  
2        performance of the step of said database server causing a tablespace to be transported.

- 1     7.     The method of claim 1, wherein:  
2           the step of importing the tablespace includes attaching a copy of the tablespace,  
3           wherein the copy is different than said tablespace; and  
4           said database server provisions a synchronization mechanism that applies changes  
5           made to the tablespace to the copy.
- 1     8.     The method of claim 7, wherein the synchronization mechanism applies changes  
2           made to the copy to the tablespace.
- 1     9.     The method of claim 7, wherein the steps further include:  
2           the synchronization mechanism determining which changes to the tablespace to  
3           propagate to the copy based on the results of an evaluation of a set of rules by  
4           a rules engine; and  
5           wherein the step of provisioning the synchronization mechanism includes configuring  
6           said set of rules.
- 1     10.    A method for a database server to provide copies of files, the method comprising the  
2           steps of:  
3           a first database server receiving a request to create a copy of a file stored in a first file  
4           system of a first operating system;  
5           said first database server causing the creation of said copy in a particular file system  
6           of a particular operating system; and  
7           wherein said copy is a different file than said particular file.

1     11.     The method of claim 10, wherein:  
2             the step of a first database server receiving a request includes the first database server  
3                   receiving a request to transport a copy of the file to said particular file system;  
4             wherein the first database server causing the creation of said copy includes causing  
5                   the transmission of the copy of said file between said first database server and  
6                   said second database server; and  
7             storing said copy in said particular file system.

1     12.     The method of claim 11, wherein:  
2             said first file system is local relative to said first database server and remote relative  
3                   to said second database server;  
4             said particular file system is local relative to said second database server and remote  
5                   relative to said first database server; and  
6             wherein the step of storing is performed by said second database server.

1     13.     The method of claim 12, wherein the step of causing the transmission includes  
2             causing the transmission of the copy as a binary file via a messaging system that  
3             propagates messages between said first database server and said second database  
4             server.

1     14.     The method of claim 11, wherein:  
2             said first file system is local relative to said second database server and remote  
3                   relative to said first database server;

4        said particular file system is local relative to said first database server and remote  
5                relative to said second database server; and  
6        wherein the step of storing is performed by said first database server.

1    15.    The method of claim 10, wherein said first file system is local relative to said first  
2        database server and said particular file system is local relative to said first database  
3        server.

1    16.    The method of claim 10, wherein receiving a request includes the invocation of a  
2        routine that passes as a parameter a value identifying the file.

1    17.    The method of claim 10, wherein:  
2        receiving a request includes receiving a command through an interface;  
3        said database server executes commands received through said interface that conform  
4                to a database language; and  
5        said command identifies the file.

1    18.    A method for automatically instantiating database data in a distributed database  
2        system, the method comprising the steps:  
3        a database server causing a set of one or more files to be transported from a first file  
4                system to a second file system;  
5        wherein said set of one or more files store data for a database; and  
6        after transporting said set of one or more files to said second file system, said  
7                database server provisioning said database as a database managed by said  
8        database server.

1 19. The method of claim 18, wherein the set of files is a tablespace, wherein the step of  
2 provisioning includes:  
3 attaching said tablespace to said database.

1 20. The method of claim 18, wherein said set of one or more files includes metadata  
2 describing database objects and commands for inserting data into the database  
3 objects, wherein the step of provisioning includes importing said data into said  
4 database by executing commands.

1 21. The method of claim 18, wherein said set of one or more files includes backup files  
2 created by a recovery manager, wherein the step of provisioning includes causing said  
3 recovery manager to create said database from said backup files.

1 22. The method of claim 21, wherein an archive log stores data recording changes to said  
2 database made after creating the backup files, wherein the step of provisioning further  
3 includes changing said database to reflect changes recorded in said archive log.

1 23. A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions which,  
2 when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to  
3 perform the method recited in Claim 1.

1 24. A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions which,  
2 when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to  
3 perform the method recited in Claim 2.

1    25.    A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions which,  
2            when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to  
3            perform the method recited in Claim 3.

1    26.    A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions which,  
2            when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to  
3            perform the method recited in Claim 4.

1    27.    A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions which,  
2            when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to  
3            perform the method recited in Claim 5.

1    28.    A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions which,  
2            when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to  
3            perform the method recited in Claim 6.

1    29.    A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions which,  
2            when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to  
3            perform the method recited in Claim 7.

1    30.    A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions which,  
2            when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to  
3            perform the method recited in Claim 8.

1 31. A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions which,  
2 when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to  
3 perform the method recited in Claim 9.

1 32. A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions which,  
2 when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to  
3 perform the method recited in Claim 10.

1 33. A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions which,  
2 when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to  
3 perform the method recited in Claim 11.

1 34. A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions which,  
2 when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to  
3 perform the method recited in Claim 12.

1 35. A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions which,  
2 when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to  
3 perform the method recited in Claim 13.

1 36. A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions which,  
2 when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to  
3 perform the method recited in Claim 14.

1 37. A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions which,  
2 when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to  
3 perform the method recited in Claim 15.

1 38. A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions which,  
2 when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to  
3 perform the method recited in Claim 16.

1 39. A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions which,  
2 when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to  
3 perform the method recited in Claim 17.

1 40. A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions which,  
2 when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to  
3 perform the method recited in Claim 18.

1 41. A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions which,  
2 when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to  
3 perform the method recited in Claim 19.

1 42. A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions which,  
2 when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to  
3 perform the method recited in Claim 20.



1 43. A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions which,  
2 when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to  
3 perform the method recited in Claim 21.

1 44. A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions which,  
2 when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to  
3 perform the method recited in Claim 22.